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5 things to know about digital footprints

1. According to [this study](#), most parents are concerned about what their teens do online and how their digital footprints might be monitored by advertisers, future employers, and others.
2. [A new California law](#) requires websites to remove anything a teen posts online if they request it. Supporters say this so-called “eraser” law would give embarrassed teens a chance to delete something they regret.
3. College-bound teens should consider that what they post online might be seen by admissions staff. [This quiz](#) was created by an educator and encourages students to clean up their digital image before applying.
4. Teens don't always realize how much information others can find out about them online. Use [this new video](#) from NetSmartz to start a discussion with teens about their digital footprint.
5. Simple tools, like [this flashcard](#) from A Platform for Good, can go a long way in reminding teens to be careful of their online image. Get more flashcards like this [here](#).

Readers respond

Last month we asked if teens should be worried about their digital footprints. One of our readers, Sakima White, responded on Facebook:

“I definitely think they should. Things from their past can haunt them later on in life. I have always heard that once you put something on the Internet, it's always out there.”

Join the conversation

Do you have a preschooler? Tell us how they use the Internet!

You could be featured in our next issue! Send your response to:



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NetSmartz Workshop

For more resources visit [NetSmartz.org](#)

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Internet Safety Information for Parents

Kids want to play games and to communicate with their friends, but parents often don't understand the pros and cons of allowing their kids unlimited and unsupervised cell phone and online access – especially when the computer is isolated in the child's bedroom away from parental oversight. Some students even stay up late after their parents are asleep and are tired the next day at school.

Many middle school students have already created Facebook or My Space pages and may have lied about their ages in their online profiles. Facebook, YouTube, and MySpace are blocked on all school computers, but frequently the things that are posted on these pages outside of school cause arguments and other problems at school between students. **Also remember that you do not have the legal right to post pictures of someone else's child on the Internet to Facebook or YouTube if they are under 18 without the parents' permission even if it is from a school event.**

Parents can go to <http://www.myspace.com> or <http://www.facebook.com> and search for their child's page. Remember that even if a page is marked "private", all of the people who have been added as "friends" can see the page AND perhaps all the "friends" of those "friends" can, too! Nothing posted on these pages is truly private. Sometimes the things students post on these sites is read by prospective college admissions officers and/or prospective employers.

If you have any information about children being exploited on the Internet, report it to <http://cybertipline.com>

Helpful Sites for Parents

The following links will help parents understand the advantages and also the dangers of kids surfing the net, chatting online, and posting to online social pages. Many of these sites include online games, videos, and activities to teach children about online safety.

These web pages contain links to one or more web pages that are outside the PCS network. PCS does not control the content or relevancy of these pages.

Social Media Articles for Parents:

- **NEW** - A Parent's Guide to Facebook - <http://www.connectsafely.org/pdfs/fbparents.pdf>
- **NEW** - Keeping Kids Safe - <http://www.o2.co.uk/parents> - Very good site
- **NEW** - A Parent's Guide to Social Networking Sites - <http://us.mcafee.com/en-us/local/docs/SocialNetworking-guide.pdf>
- **NEW** - Parents Guide to Facebook - <http://www.11alive.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=135268&catid=40>
- **NEW** - Facebook Guide for Parents - <http://betterinbulk.net/2010/04/facebook-guide-for-parents.html>
- **NEW** - Facebook for Parents - <http://www.commonsemmedia.org/advice-for-parents/facebook-parents>
- **NEW** - Navigating Facebook: A Guide for Parents - <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/newslettersnewsletterbucketcurriculumconnections/888601-442/facebook.html.csp>
- **NEW** - Can I Do That on YouTube? Copyright Law & Posting Video - <http://www.reelseo.com/youtube-copyright-law/>
- **NEW** - Remove embarrassing YouTube videos, untag Facebook photos - http://howto.cnet.com/8301-11310_39-20074496-285/remove-embarrassing-youtube-videos-untag-facebook-photos/

- Cybersmart Kids Online - <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>
- GetNetWise - <http://www.getnetwise.com/>
- Internet Safety: What parents need to know - <http://www.fcps.edu/is/instructionaltechnology/internetsafety/parents.shtml>
- Internet Slang Translator - <http://www.noslang.com/>
- Internet Super Heroes - <http://www.internetsuperheroes.org/>
- Safe Surfing Guide - <http://resources.kaboose.com/safe-surf/parents-intro.html>
- Kids Privacy Online - http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/privacyinitiatives/childrens_educ.html
- Lingo2Word - <http://www.lingo2word.com/> (Has a translator to change between English & text lingo.)
- Media Awareness Network - http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/special_initiatives/index.cfm
- "Missing" (online movie) - http://www.webwisekids.org/index.asp?page=missing_flv
- NetLingo: Chat & Text Message Shorthand - <http://www.netlingo.com/emailsh.cfm>
- NetSmartz - <http://www.netsmartz.org/>
- Parents, The AntiDrug e-Monitoring - <http://www.theantidrug.com/E-Monitoring/internet-lingo.asp>
- SafeKids.com - <http://www.safekids.com/>
- Surfing the Net with Kids - <http://www.surfnetkids.com/>
- Thinkuknow - <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- WebWiseKids - <http://www.webwisekids.org/>
- WiredSafety - <http://www.wiredsafety.org/>

Cyberbullying Specific Articles:

Cyberbullying is Parents' #1 Fear: <http://www.care.com/child-care-survey-cyberbullying-is-parents-1-fear-p1017-q3629717.html>

How to be a Plugged-in Parent: <http://www.care.com/child-care-how-to-be-a-plugged-in-parent-p1017-q8150598.html>

Cyberbullying Infographic: <http://www.care.com/child-care-cyberbullying-found-as-parents-1-fear-p1017-q3623116.html>